

The Cheerful Letter

EVERY PLACE A CHURCH; EVERY DAY THE LORD'S DAY; ALL EVENTS BLESSINGS; ALL JOY
THANKSGIVING; AND ALL NATURE AND LIFE FULL OF GOD.—*James Freeman Clarke.*

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THE RANK AND FILE

After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also and sent them.—LUKE X, 1.

THE message of our Christian faith cannot be written in a book. It must be embodied in a life. It was so in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. "As the Father hath sent me, I send you," Jesus said. He sent twelve, and then seventy, and then three thousand, and then other thousands, into every section of human interest whither he himself would come.

Let me study with you the significance of the sending out of the other seventy disciples who were not commissioned officers in the army of the Lord—they simply made up the rank and file. They were quiet, obscure men—not one of them is known to us by name. The names of the twelve apostles are known everywhere. But none of you can give the name of any one of the other seventy. They are the almost unknown men whom Christ sends forth. They never do anything conspicuous. They never get into the newspapers or into history. But they go about doing good, and their names, Jesus says, are written in heaven.

The hope of the race is bound up with the service of those inconspicuous, untitled Christians, here represented by the other seventy Jesus sent forth.

Notice also the method of their going. They went "two and two" for companionship and mutual counsel. The whole method of our Christian undertaking is social, not solitary. Two and two: it may be that husband and wife went together. We may be sure that among the seventy there were women. We know that the last Christians to leave the Cross on that first Good Friday, and the first Christians to reach the empty tomb on that first Easter morning, were women.

They had a definite purpose; they let nothing distract or delay them. They went straight along about their august business, that they might bring peace to every house and heart.

They went as the forerunners and accredited representatives of the Christian mode of life. They could not speak as Jesus did, Who spoke as never man spake, but they could tell something of the glad tidings He had brought. They embodied some measures of His spirit in their bearing. He sent them, as He sends us, to show the waiting world all we can of His truth and love; to someone you will be the best sample of Christian life he will ever be privileged to know intimately. It imposes a tremendous responsibility, but it is the method of the Master—"As the Father hath sent me, I send you."

This was their message—into whatsoever city or town they came, they were to say, "The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you."—*Rev. Charles Reynolds Brown, in "The Quest of Life," reprinted by permission of The Pilgrim Press.*

FOR ALL THESE

I THANK Thee, Lord, that I am straight and strong;

With wit to work and hope to keep me brave;
That two score years, unfathomed, still belong
To the allotted life Thy bounty gave.

I thank Thee that the sight of sunlit lands
And dipping hills, the breath of evening
grass—

That wet, dark rocks and flowers in my hands
Can give me daily gladness as I pass.

I thank Thee that I love the things of Earth—
Ripe fruits and laughter, lying down to sleep,
The shine of lighted towns, the graver worth
Of beating human hearts that laugh and weep.

I thank Thee that as yet I need not know,
Yet need not fear the mystery of end;
But more than all, and though all these should
go—

Dear Lord, this on my knees! I thank Thee
for my friend.

—*Juliet Wilbor Tompkins.*

THE BOOK AND MAGAZINE CLUB

Send all offers and requests for this department to Mrs. H. A. Stevens, 25 Beacon St., Boston, Mass.

Please remember, when you see a request for a book in the Book Club, to write a card asking "Shall I send such a book to such a person?" before sending it, else the person who requests it may receive several copies. When any one writes directly to you, asking for a book offered by you, send a card to Mrs. Austin, saying that you *have* sent it. When you receive more requests than you can meet, send those to the Book Club to be printed here.

SPECIAL NOTICES

It will greatly aid those who are sending books, magazines, cards, and so forth, if all our correspondents who send requests for their children will take pains to mention their names and ages. Lacking such information, one is likely to make mistakes; for a boy of twelve and a girl of seven are not usually interested in the same things.

When requesting books for the first time, correspondents should always give, as reference, the name and address of their clergyman.

When correspondents move to a new address, notice should be sent either to our headquarters, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass., or to those persons who have been sending books and magazines.

It is necessary to state positively that the Cheerful Letter Exchange is not a "clothing bureau" and not a "charitable" society in the usual sense of the word. We do not undertake to send correspondents money, clothing or household goods. Letters asking for that sort of assistance cannot receive attention. Letters not signed cannot be printed.

Many people do care for just the kind of friendly service for which we are organized. We limit our efforts to them and their wishes.

Those who enjoy receiving books and magazines are asked to remember that they, in their turn, can give much pleasure if they will take pains to write to the persons who send such reading matter. In cases where no word of response goes back—not even to say that the books or magazines were received—senders may suppose the parcels were not welcome. Let us each do our share.

OFFERS

The Brighton Branch offers the following books. Address, Miss Carrie L. Murdock, 320 Allston St., Brookline, Mass.

The New Testament.

The Changed Cross.

In Memoriam. Tennyson.

Maxims and Sayings of the Rev. F. W. Faber, D.D.

Philosophic Nuggets.

Carlyle, Amiel, Ruskin and Kingsley.

Huldah. Emma Brown.

America, Save the Near East. Abraham Mitric Rihbany.

In His Name. E. E. Hale.

Album for Pictures.

The Gospel of Jesus. Clayton R. Bowen.

The Real Palestine of Today. Lewis Gaston Leary.

The Story of Jesus. Florence Buck.

Introductory French Prose Composition. François.

France's Sylvester Bonnard.

La Mère de la Marquise. Brush.

Le Conscript of 1813. Super.

Contes et Légendes. In Partie.

Brief Spanish Grammar. Ingraham-Edgren.

Marchen und Ergählungen. Guerber.

Elementary German Commercial Correspondence. Lewis Marsh, M.A.

Drei Kleine Lustspiele. Wells.

Loening and Arndt.

Deutsche Wirtschaft. Bole.

Gasc's French and English Dictionary.

Worcester's New School Dictionary.

An Approach to Business Problems. Shaw.

Money and Banking. Jonathan Holdsworth.

Exercises in Rhetoric and Composition. Carpenter.

Classic Myths in English Literature. C. M. Gayley.

The Franklin Written Arithmetic.

An Elementary Spelling Book.

Commerce and Industry. J. Russell Smith.

Introduction to Economics. Johnson.

Commercial Correspondence. Belding.

History of Western Europe. J. H. Robinson.

Introduction to the Study of Sociology. Hayes.

The Revolutionary Period of Europe. Bourne.

The Palace Beautiful. Mrs. L. T. Meade.

Jessica's First Prayer. Hesba Stretton.

Madame Claire. Susan Ertz.

Miss Gray's Girls. Jeannette A. Grant.

The Roll of Honor. Annie Thomas.

A World of Girls. L. T. Meade.

Marjoribanks. Elvirton Wright.

Three Young Women. Jennie M. Drinkwater.

Elsie Dinsmore. Martha Finley.
 The Adventures of Prince Ricardo. Andrew
 Lang.
 Shandygaff. Christopher Morley.
 The Major. Ralph Connor.
 Further Experiences of an Irish R. M. E. Som-
 irville and Martin Ross.
 The Pit. Frank Norris.

REQUESTS

1. I am writing to ask your kind help for myself and little sister, Mary Alice. She is 7 years old and in the first grade, and she loves books and cards. I am 13 years old, and in the fourth grade. I would like to have some girl friends to write to, and books that would help me. We live 15 miles from town. I love to go to church and Sunday School very much. I will not send any reference, as mother has been writing to the dear *Cheerful Letter* for a long time, but I have never written before. It seems that we are so poor, with only a rented home, and have so little to enjoy, I wanted to write so badly, to ask for some girl friends to correspond with. Nannie Mae Simmons, Malakoff, Texas, R. 3.

2. Mrs. G. Lee Roberson, Elamsville, Va., Box 32, thanks all who have remembered her with reading and pieces, and hopes she may receive sewing material, and books suitable for her two boys, ages 14 and 10.

3. Mrs. Orrie Shively, Bassett, Va., a widow of 63 and lonely, asks for a correspondent. She has five children working for themselves.

4. Mrs. W. A. Ham, Edison, N. C., asks for pictures and books for her 10-year-old daughter. Mrs. Martha Thompson, same address, asks for quilt pieces.

5. Mrs. Goldie Murray, Greenwood, Texas, R. 1, living on a farm, will appreciate a magazine and quilt pieces, and pictures for her boy of 7 and girl of 4.

6. Mrs. Sallie McLendon, Wadesboro, N. C., R. 1, Box 100, feels she has been forgotten, but hopes for something to help pass the lonely hours.

7. Mrs. Bettie A. Short, Marytown, W. Va., has been burned out, and lost all belongings. She asks for reading.

8. A friend gave me a copy of the *Cheerful Letter*. I am a poor farmer's wife, and live on rented land, and a long ways from town and church. I have five children, a boy 13, a girl 8, a boy 6, a girl 4, and a boy 14 months. I would appreciate good reading matter of any kind. I am not able to subscribe to any papers. They would be a lot of comfort to me. There is no minister in my neighborhood. For reference you can write my Sunday school teacher, Mrs. Gertrude Scisk, Jefferson, N. C. Thanking you kindly, Mrs. Carrie Parsons, Jefferson, N. C.

9. Mrs. Gusta Jones, Scotland, Ark., Box 132, asks for a Webster's Dictionary for her children.

10. Miss Eva Thomas, Polkton, N. C., R. 2, Box 47, says it is a long time since she has heard from any *Cheerful Letter* friends. She hopes to be remembered.

11. I am 15 years old and expect to graduate from high school this year. I would appreciate very much some magazines and books, as there is no public library near here. Sincerely yours, Melville Eastridge, Clifton, N. C.

12. Mrs. Hattie Davis, Xenia, Ohio, R. 7, recently lost her husband, he having died of pneumonia. She looks to the *Cheerful Letter* for some cheer at this lonely time.

13. Mrs. Jane Blackburn, Malta, Ohio, sends thanks to all those who sent her books in response to her request. They all were greatly appreciated.

14. I am 36 years old, and have been crippled all my life. I cannot use my hands, so I have no way to pass the time, except read and talk. If the *Cheerful Letter* friends have any back numbers of magazines or books they do not care to keep, I would be very thankful to receive them, as it surely is lonesome for me. May God bless you all for the good work you are doing. Refer to the Rev. S. Harmon, Dabney, Ark. Mrs. Mattie Beverase.

15. Mrs. Bettie Sexton, Grassy Creek, N. C., asks for copies of the *Cheerful Letter* magazine and quilt pieces.

16. Mrs. Jane Miller of Whitetop, Va., R. 2, Box 67, has been sick for a long time. She writes asking for copies of the *Cheerful Letter* and any cheer the *Cheerful Letter* members wish to send her.

17. I thank you all so much for sending me so many nice things. I am coming to you again for cheer for my aunt. She is a cripple, and as she is alone nearly all the time she would be glad to get books, or anything you might send her, to pass the long hours. Thread or scraps would be appreciated, but books and magazines especially. Her name is Mrs. Aley F. Eller, Clifton, N. C. Please send her something. For reference write Rev. George Miller, Clifton, N. C. Thanking you again for your kindness, Emma E. Weaver, Clifton, N. C.

18. I am a poor woman. I have four children, two boys and two girls, ages 6, 3, 2, and 6 months. My husband has to be away working for me and the children all the time. I get very lonesome. I would be glad if some of the dear *Cheerful Letter* friends would send me sewing material, quilt scraps, or patchwork of any kind, magazines, and picture books for the children. Thanking you in advance, Mrs. Rosa Brooks, Whitetop, Va., R. 2, Box 52.

19. Rev. Herbert Powers, Sturgills, N. C., is

a young minister, and asks for books to help him in his study of the Bible.

20. Mrs. Mamie Barker, Lansing, N. C., sends thanks for all the reading received for her invalid son. She would like to receive some patchwork material.

21. I want you to please print my letter for me, so the kind friends of the *Cheerful Letter* will know how much I have appreciated hearing from them, and I hope they will still remember me with quilt pieces; and anything to amuse the children will be appreciated. Mrs. Baxter Neaves, Jefferson, N. C.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mrs. Nancy C. James, Miss Ethel N. James and Miss Margaret A. Gordon live now at Paxton, Nebr., R. 2.

Mrs. Zenna Blevins, Hilton, N. C.

Mrs. Eva Wilson, R. 3, Montrose, Colo.

Mrs. W. P. Scott, Vinton, Va., R. 1.

Mrs. Elmira Morrow, Holly, Colo.

Mrs. F. M. Martin, Canton, Texas, R. 1.

WITH OUR HOME-KEEPERS

FAVORITE RECIPES

Golden Corn Muffins.—One cup flour, 2 tablespoons shortening, 1 cup cornmeal, 3 tablespoons sugar, 1 cup milk, 1 egg, 1 tablespoon salt, 3 teaspoons baking powder. Cream sugar and shortening thoroughly. Add egg, well beaten, and milk, then stir in slowly dry ingredients, which have been sifted twice. Divide into greased gem pans and bake in hot oven 25 minutes. Makes 12 muffins.

Date Pudding.—One cup sugar, 2 eggs, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup flour, 1 teaspoon baking powder, $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt, 1 teaspoon vanilla, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup seeded dates chopped, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup nut meats. Mix the sugar and eggs and beat for three minutes. Add all the rest of the ingredients and pour into a well-buttered baking dish. Set in pan of hot water and bake in moderate oven for 30 minutes.

Lemon Sauce.—One-half cup sugar, 1 tablespoon flour, $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon salt, 2 tablespoons lemon juice, 1 cup water. Mix the sugar, flour and salt. Add all the rest of the ingredients. Cook, stirring constantly, until the mixture is thick and creamy.

Baked Bread and Cheese.—(Printed at the request of Mrs. H. J., who asks for a meat substitute recipe.) Six slices bread, $\frac{1}{2}$ pound American cheese, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups milk, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon paprika, butter or margarine, 2 eggs. Spread bread with butter, pile one slice above another and cut in cubes. Cut the cheese in

thin slices. Put cubes of bread and slices of cheese in a baking dish, in alternate layers, sprinkling each layer with salt and paprika. Beat the eggs, add milk, mix and pour over bread and cheese. Bake at 350° F. until firm in the center. Serve immediately.

HANDY HINTS

To Extract a Splinter.—One of the most annoying of small accidents is to have a sliver of wood stuck into the flesh of the hand. Moreover the wound becomes very painful if the sliver is not removed. Sometimes it is possible to remove it with a needle or other sharp instrument. But when the sliver is of soft wood, this is very difficult. Steam may, however, be employed without inconvenience or pain, and is very effective. A wide-mouthed bottle, such as a milk bottle, should be filled nearly full of water as hot as the glass will stand. Then the injured part should be placed over the mouth of the bottle, and pressed down slightly to prevent any steam from escaping. This will cause the flesh to be drawn down, and in a minute or so the steam will extract the splinter, and at the same time it will relieve the inflammation.

To clean aluminum use a fine metal or silver polish. Use nothing that will scratch it. If food should scorch in an aluminum pan, cover the burned area thickly with salt, then add just enough water to moisten the salt. Let stand several hours, rinse and use more salt to rub off the scorch.

THE BRIDGE BUILDER

An old man, going a lone highway,
Came at the evening, cold and grey,
To a chasm, deep and vast and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
The sullen stream had no fears for him,
But he turned, when safe on the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.
"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,
"You are wasting strength in building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day,
You never again will pass this way.
You've crossed the chasm, deep and wide,
Why build you the bridge at eventide?"
The builder lifted his old grey head:
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said
"There followeth after me today
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm that has been naught to me,
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim.
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him."

—Selected.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY
OF THE CHEERFUL LETTER EXCHANGE
FOR THE YEAR 1927-1928

It is the privilege of the secretary of the Cheerful Letter Exchange to present her annual report for 1927-1928. She believes the work done in this line by Unitarians throughout the country has this year far exceeded that ever done before in an equal length of time. Regular meetings of the Exchange have been held monthly at 25 Beacon Street, Boston, from October to May inclusive. What these meetings have meant to chairmen and members able to attend them is typified by this extract from an annual report: "Nothing keeps your chairman from the monthly meetings if she is about Boston. They are an inspiration and a delight." Workers so far away that they never can attend one labor under considerable disadvantage, for the reports of these gatherings mailed to them are at best but feeble echoes of what actually happens. The records of their achievements are all the more praiseworthy.

The average attendance at the Boston meetings has been 52. Seventy-two Branches have been represented at least once. Waltham Branch has had the largest number of individuals present. A member from Cincinnati came the longest distance. The January meeting was the largest, with 61 present.

At each meeting the chairman, Mrs. William B. Nichols, has presided. Her charming personality and gracious presence have made possible the delightfully informal gatherings from which members have gained immeasurable inspiration and suggestion. She has frequently reminded them that they are "all at home," and has created an air of friendliness, which has made 25 Beacon Street a veritable haven to workers. Your secretary cannot forbear to pause a moment to comment upon Mrs. Nichols' resignation of the chairmanship of the Exchange. It was with feelings of deep regret that her co-workers learned of her decision. Since 1895 she has been connected with the administration of the work. For 24 years as chairman of the Book and Magazine Club and then for 8 years as chairman of the Exchange, she has given herself heart and soul to the work. The sacrifices which such an outpouring of time and energy in one direction have entailed were worth while to her because of her vital, intelligent interest in the cause. The results are evident in the steady healthy growth of the Exchange's activities. The best proof of your appreciation of the wise leadership of your beloved Mrs. Nichols will be to "carry on" under the new chairman, ever seeking new opportunities for service.

Your secretary has attended and kept the minutes of the meetings of the Exchange. She

has sent notices of the monthly meetings to chairmen in the vicinity of Boston and has carried on all other correspondence necessary to her office. In April she sent notices to all 233 chairmen listed in the *Manual*, requesting their annual reports: 122 answers were received.

The chairman for the Brookfield Branch, Mrs. William B. Hastings, has during the year passed away. Her name is held in grateful memory.

The annual report of Mrs. Rachel Sands, chairman of the Home Study, is as ever worthy of commendation. Eight hundred and forty-one books, an unrecorded number of magazines, and countless clippings have been sent to the department's 90 pupils, thanks to the aid of 41 Alliance Branches. At Christmas a worthwhile novel with an attractive card was sent to each student enrolled. In families where there were children, toys were included in the parcel.

Mrs. Sands writes: "We have pupils from Maine to Texas and from the Atlantic to South Dakota. Grady Long, one of our most interesting pupils, is moving from Tennessee to New York, and so, after five years' studying with us, is withdrawing. He writes, 'I can't tell what the Cheerful Letter has done for me. When I started teaching I was woefully lacking in knowledge and material. The Home Study and the Library Committees have supplied both.' Ted Welsh, our crippled boy in Texas, who has studied with us for seven years, has gained a grammar school and part of a high school education. A young woman in Arkansas and another in Georgia are not only studying themselves, but have recommended a number of excellent pupils. Providence Alliance has supplied a number of cook books for a group of farm women, who also receive clippings to interest them. Children receive bedtime stories and carefully selected cards, and where there are older people to help they often make real progress. A group of young people near Alfaretta, Georgia, are doing excellent work in English and History. In the vicinity of Rex, Arkansas, are sixteen young people studying English, Arithmetic, and Geography. Twenty-five teachers are being helped with teacher's magazines, and eight are studying to obtain certificates for higher grades of work.

"Our course in Commercial Law is especially valuable, as we have modern textbooks to loan, and one of our chairmen, trained in Law, offers to help in teaching. Two young men have completed the course this year; so it is open for somebody else. For the first time Sunday schools have been supplied with pictures for use of the children in their note and scrap books. When we know that our own high schools are constantly asking for *National Geographic Magazines* to use in their libraries, we can realize how valuable these are to home study work.

Often the whole periodical becomes a textbook. More dictionaries than ever have been sent: still the demand is far greater than the supply."

Mrs. Sands continues: "Your home study chairman has the conviction that, for the small sum of money expended by the committee, the amount of good accomplished has been tremendous. Great credit is due the teachers and helpers in this work. They have not only given of the best of their time and strength, but have often opened their pocketbooks, that the work might go on. The lack of funds is a serious handicap. Some good instructors have been lost because they could not be given the materials they needed."

Your secretary wishes to emphasize this last statement of Mrs. Sands. It is most unfortunate that the department has been unable to retain teachers whose instruction would have meant so much to an ambitious boy in the Ozark Mountains, whose farmer father could not afford to pay his board in the distant town, where he could have had free tuition in high school; to a young school teacher, filled with altruism but poorly equipped professionally, who has been striving gallantly to feed the hungry minds and brighten the drab lives of children in the remote Virginia Mountains; and to many other young folks of similar calibre. These Northern teachers, who are ready to give their time and experience for the good of the cause, are quite right that it is futile to attempt long distant instruction without up-to-date duplicate texts and other modern equipment. The Home Study Department has practically no money to draw upon. Chairmen have been generous in the donation of such material as they could collect. Why not go a step further this year and, following the example of Wollaston and some other Branches, include in your budget a small contribution for this department? Two hundred dollars in the hands of the hard-working chairman would open broad, new fields of service. You would never miss you little share of it.

The annual report of Mrs. H. A. Stevens, chairman of the Library Committee, which is the Exchange's other educational venture, fills your secretary with admiration, for here again is a record of creditable progress. Mrs. Stevens says: "There is no longer any doubt in your library chairman's mind that this work of distributing the right kind of reading has been a real force for community betterment, which will continue through the faithfulness of Cheerful Letter chairmen and the cooperation of teachers, ministers, and rightminded citizens of rural sections of our great country. It is hard for some, surrounded by more books and magazines than they can find time to read and who can easily walk to a near-by public library for more, to realize that to many on our list even the

magazine and rotogravure section of a good Sunday paper is a real treat, which can be used to advantage by numberless rural teachers. There are countless places, where our little libraries are the only reading centers for miles around and people, whose homes boast little literature beyond an occasional mail order catalogue, walk miles through heavy mud to return a book and borrow another.

"However, with the building of consolidated schools, each of which brings together several one-room, one-teacher, ungraded schools of the old type into a centrally located, modern building, to which children are given free transportation and where they are placed in properly graded rooms, education is taking rapid strides forward in some rural sections of our own country, notably the South. *But* when you are told that in every instance *books* are the last item on the list of equipment, though a room called the 'library' is often set aside, and when you realize that usually the pupils must buy their own textbooks, you will understand the handicap a new headmaster faces, when he considers obtaining supplementary reading for his students."

A Cheerful Letter Library, by the way, should contain some 50 wholesome books, mostly novels of recent enough date to be of interest to your own young people. A few volumes of poetry, biography, and travel may be included. It should always boast a Bible, a dictionary, and a cook book. The books, while not of necessity new, should be in good condition. The force of example should be remembered, and no soiled or pencilled volumes, or any weak in the bindings, ought to be included. The regular addition of ten books or so, twice a year, will be a godsend to your readers and an easy accomplishment after you have interested your Branch in the problems and joys of your librarian and her clients.

A Cheerful Letter Library is pictured by Mrs. Stevens. First it is a "box of books" placed in the home of a reliable woman, who is ready to share them with a neighbor, who shares with one farther off. The fame of the books grows: a mother comes to seek reading for her children; an older boy finds a volume which helps him in his composition; a young teacher asks if there is any possibility of getting a book on pedagogy. The custodian of the library has a vision of greater service, and asks permission to place the collection in the care of a school, centrally located, that more may benefit from it. Finally, with this nucleus in hand a teacher requests more reading for the children, offering to undertake the distribution, through her pupils, of books for those at home, youngsters of pre-school age, who revel in picture books, to grandparents, who delight in good fiction.

It is significant that 14 of the 39 new libraries started this year have been placed in schools. Through the coöperation of 47 Branches, 8,028 books have been put into circulation. You now have 239 libraries in 31 states, besides the Philippine Islands, the Virgin Islands and India. From an estimate made in 1924 from old records, and from the fairly accurate reports since kept, it has been found that there are at least 45,000 books now in circulation in your Cheerful Letter libraries. Truly may Mrs. Stevens say, "This report was made possible by the continued loyalty of workers from coast to coast, which is well expressed in the following: 'Little things are little things, but faithfulness in little things is a great, big thing.'"

Mrs. H. R. Austin, in charge of the Book and Magazine Club, has rendered efficient, unassuming service. The amount of her correspondence would stagger many of you, for it was her duty to obtain references from all applicants for correspondents. She also has edited the monthly column of requests in the magazine. The Exchange is fortunate to have her intelligent aid.

Miss Edith L. Jones again joyfully reports that the little sunshine bags have collected enough money to meet the deficit for publishing *The Cheerful Letter*, and have made it possible to continue it in its enlarged size. Mrs. Brush of All Souls' Church, New York, again has led in the amount turned in from the little bags. Your officers feel justly proud of the magazine. Its columns, "With Our Home-Keepers" and "Good Health Notes," offer many practical suggestions. Its page for children delights the young folks. It keeps up to date, as evidenced by its articles on "Gardens" in the spring numbers. Every one of you surely must desire to have it continued in its present form. To accomplish this you must be ready to do your part. Although this year has shown a gain in the number of subscribers, you ought to increase its circulation greatly. The sheet carries no advertising to pay its expenses: its only earned revenue comes from its subscriptions. Remember your slogan, "A *Cheerful Letter* subscription for every Alliance woman." There is at present at Headquarters a long list of people desiring the monthly, but unable to pay for it. There are in every Branch dozens of women, each well able to donate fifty cents for a year's subscription to be sent to someone else, if she has not use for it herself. Besides, you can boom the sunshine bags. By now you know whether you obtain better results by passing the bag at regular meetings, or by distributing a goodly number for members to take home. At any rate, don't let people forget to give you their pennies; the magazine needs them.

As your secretary turns to the reports sent her

by Branch chairmen she reads a full record of accomplishment that she wishes time and space permitted her to retail to you word for word. She also wishes that the other chairmen had seen fit to make the effort to send her their reports, for she knows that from their additional data truly wonderful results might have been tabulated. For the following statistics only figures absolutely reported have been used. Where workers have referred in liberal but vague terms "to barrels of magazines," "large quantities of cards," "many books," "frequent packages of scraps," or "hosts of pictures," no count could fairly be made, and none has been attempted. All Souls' Church, New York, again holds first place in the total number of things sent. First Congregational, Providence, Rhode Island; Newport, Rhode Island; Brookline First, and Cambridge come next in the order named. Other Branches deserving special mention for the quantity of work done are Roxbury, Wellesley Hills, Dorchester First, Boston First, Newton Channing, Hingham and Milton, all of Massachusetts. Particular recognition should be given the work done by the chairman for Dorchester Channing Branch, who alone has averaged sending nearly a box a week, the contents of which included 1,085 articles.

Thirty-three thousand one hundred and eight magazines have been distributed. More periodicals than ever have been placed near home, since the postal rates make mailing so expensive. The Flatbush Committee has collected for a Y. M. C. A., which serves sailors 2,500 magazines, many of which later found their way aboard ship. The Santa Ana, California, chairman writes, "Postage is so high that our beautiful piles of *Ladies Home Journals* and the like have to go to our Americanization teacher to be dispensed to the Mexicans, while 4,000,000 American citizens of pre-Revolutionary ancestry are suffering for lack of cheer." That an increasing number of workers realize that the cheapest and most satisfactory way to send magazines is to subscribe for them directly from the publisher for far-away friends is shown by the report that 221 such subscriptions have been given. We may thus add from this source 2,652 magazines to these already counted, making a grand total of 35,760. *Cheerful Letters* and *Christian Registers* have not been included in this list.

In spite of high rates of postage and the fact that few women nowadays make their own clothes, 760 large bundles of scraps have been sent, as well as many of knitting, embroidery, and crocheting materials. The Cleveland, Ohio, Branch is supplying a correspondent with pieces for Bible History quilts, for which are sewed pictures, like Elijah and the Ravens. The Hingham chairman received a letter thanking her

for some tiny silk scraps, that her correspondent was using to make a silk patchwork kimono, which will surely resemble Joseph's coat of many colors.

Christmas again meant the outpouring of generosity of workers to far-away friends. Increasingly many boxes were sent for school or community trees, and their contents gladdened the hearts of many who literally would otherwise have had no gifts at all. Emphasis has been put upon the fact that many of the presents were attractively wrapped and tagged, and that the toys and useful articles were new. Your secretary is convinced that brand-new, inexpensive articles are more appreciated than shabby, soiled things of greater elegance. There isn't an Alliance at the November meeting of which a chairman couldn't collect sufficient change to buy gifts to make a dozen children happy. A dollar goes a long way in Woolworth's, and gives joy out of all proportion to its size. Sometimes your secretary thinks that candy ought to be an essential of every Christmas box. One of her Virginia correspondents in acknowledging her tokens wrote, "The kids just couldn't help yelling when they saw their lovely packages. The boys will play with their autos all winter. I am proud of the trinket to hang in the window. The children were crazy over the sweets; it was the first store candy they had ever had." The heart of many a chairman has been warmed by the arrival of a simple token from a grateful correspondent. Northern homes have been adorned with beautiful Southern holly and other greens, nuts from afar have graced Christmas dinners, lovely tatting and crocheting and hand-made flowers have silently expressed their maker's gratitude, while photographs of unseen friends have smiled their approbation.

The method employed by various chairmen form an interesting contrast. Committees vary in size from one to fifteen. Some meet regularly twice a month, some less frequently, others at random. From Providence First comes this statement, "Our group regularly meets on the second and fourth Mondays, from October to May, with an extra session in December. Our average attendance was five. At two all-day meetings luncheon was served to members and interested guests. We had one with box luncheon for members only. One, at which tea was served for guests, included the reading of reports and letters full of news and appreciation from correspondents, which added interest and sociability. Continued work at business meetings of the Alliance has increased our output. We have invited anyone willing to contribute in any to become an associate member."

From Keene, New Hampshire, comes the information that follows: "At our annual meeting in May we are to have an exhibition of the

work we have been doing, hoping in this way to get more material for our efforts." Similar publicity might well be employed in other places.

Most Alliances appropriate some money for their Cheerful Letter Committees. These sums vary from two dollars to two hundred. In few cases is it sufficient. Some groups find it easier to pay the extra out of their own pockets, but many systematically raise it. Several have sold old magazines and papers, which cost too much to send. Wollaston's Committee has cleared forty-five dollars from magazine commissions and luncheons, served at its meetings; Hingham's group held a successful food sale at a regular Alliance meeting; while Rosindale's enthusiasts helped put on a small rummage sale, from the proceeds of which their share was more than thirty dollars. The Somerville Committee gave a silver tea to raise money.

The spirit of coöperation of other groups with Cheerful Letter workers has been wonderful. The boys and girls of Andover, New Hampshire, Church have made twelve beautiful scrap books for a hospital. The Roxbury chairman writes that she is constantly supplied with books, magazines, cards and quilt scraps, for there is a fine spirit of coöperation in her whole Branch, which has made her work grow every year. In Lexington the Alliance at large made many scrap books. In Winchester a twelve-year-old girl collected quilt pieces, by asking her school friends to bring them to her, and sent them to a twelve-year-old in North Carolina. In many cases individuals have contributed and sent, at their own expense, magazines in quantity as well as books.

Members feel the hardships of the high postal rates. It is encouraging to hear this from the Waltham chairman, "We have sent to each name on our list a year's subscription to some good magazine instead of the usual parcels of old ones. This plan is much easier for the committee, and the correspondents like it just as well. It is also less expensive. Greeting cards are still sent. As we used to send 20 packages of reading a month, we now have more time to devote to writing letters and the sending of quilt pieces."

Following the example of a worker in Brookline, many now cut from magazines the serial stories, which, with a little judicious pasting, are bound in cardboard covers. Thus the recent novels are sent for a few cents. Short stories and educational articles can be used in the same way. Attractive collections of anecdotes and jokes, pasted on both sides of brown paper slips and brightened by gay pictures, may be placed in the mailing envelopes, which flood every household, if they are camouflaged by gorgeous illustrations. These will cheer the hours of invalids and shut-ins and not tax unduly the pocketbooks of the senders.

It is still a problem to make your correspondents understand that your organization is not an almsgiving one. Some chairmen have admitted the sending of money and clothing and at the same time have complained of receiving begging letters. Just so surely as you do the first, the second will follow in increasing numbers, for the friends of your recipient will try to play upon your sympathies. It is unfortunately but inevitably true that, whenever an exception is made in the rule of the Exchange that such things may not be sent, someone will take advantage of you. Your secretary suggests that all begin this year with the resolution that they will send nothing, which in not permissible; that when a new correspondent begins to beg she is to be summarily dropped from the list, and that when an older pen acquaintance asks for material aid, she receive a warning, and then if she persists, she, too, be dropped for all time. In such wise, very shortly this problem of workers would be solved. In one or two extreme cases Branches have given up Cheerful Letter Committees because they have been so pestered by importunate correspondents. Surely you do not want more of that, when you remember how many lonely souls are waiting for the cheer which you may rightfully give.

It is encouraging to learn that most of your distant friends acknowledge your favors. At the risk of being accused of endless repetition your secretary reminds you that you must enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope or postal card, if you wish to be sure of a reply. When a young girl in a Massachusetts town says, on receiving a box of paper, "Good land, where'll I ever get a stamp?" what can you expect of the inhabitants of remote Southern mountains? This advice from the chairman of Cambridge First may be helpful, "Except in the case of familiar places, we find that it pays to write beforehand to ask what kind of books are wanted, whether they can fetch them from the freight station, and what the freight address is. In many cases it is not the same as the post office. These precautions saved us many a blunder and waste of money." West Roxbury sends papers and pictures to those who write appreciative notes.

Great emphasis has been laid upon the friendly relations existing between workers and their correspondents. Miss Suter of Brookline First Church has recently returned from a wonderful visit with "her Fanny" in Floyd, Virginia. The Barre, Massachusetts, chairman writes, "It is a very interesting work which takes lots of time, but I enjoy it, for I consider some of my correspondents my good friends." The Marlboro chairman writes, "Most of the twelve people on my list have been on it for at least four years. My high aim has been to become intimately acquainted with these lonely women, to share

their joys and sorrows, to become interested in their families, and to bring them to feel that I am really concerned in their welfare. This has been accomplished by many friendly letters." The Somerville chairman has a correspondent, whose family has grown from one to eight in the course of her acquaintance.

From a Virginia correspondent to her friend in the evening Alliance of the Community Church, New York, comes this tribute, "When I get my mind quiet from cares and troubles, sometimes it wanders to friends and beautiful places, and this instant it went to you." A North Carolina woman, who is very lonesome, likes to tell her "ups and downs" to a friend.

Many find joy in doing for people near home. Much material has been given for use in homes for the aged, hospitals, and sailors' havens. The chairman of Cambridge First has personally developed "a friendly service to lonely places" by sending reading matter to lighthouses off the Maine Coast.

The beloved chairman from the Needham Branch, Dr. Mary Hobart, met with the misfortune of breaking her hip this winter. During her convalescence she kept her interest in Cheerful Letter work. She recently sent word to the Exchange that Hilda Rose's book, "The Stump Farm," is on sale. What a delight those two must be to each other!

In closing this report your secretary will quote from the North Carolina correspondent of the Milton Branch: "I just cannot explain how much I appreciate your kindness in sending the books, for it sure is a great help to my little girls to have them. My youngest girl, who is seven years old, read a story called 'Sleeping Beauty and the Beast,' and she began to tell me about it and cry. I laughed, and told her she mustn't trouble over fairy tales. Every one of them likes books, and nothing pleases them better than a new book to read."

The Northboro chairman shall announce in her own words her feeling about the work, "We realize our report is meagre in comparison to city reports, but we are determined to persist in our small way, constantly praying that through our example others may become interested in the work so filled with opportunities, even for those who are able to do only the small things, which to some of the dear Cheerful Letter people seem real gifts of value and cheer."

Respectfully submitted,
 ETHEL LANE HERSEY, *Secretary.*

A MAN'S morning devotions should be his spiritual gymnastics. Choose for your morning thought something that will give tone and vigor, poise and power, resistance and resilience for the day's work.—*Willard Brown Thorpe.*

"GOOD HEALTH" NOTES

FIFTY YEARS OF THE BOYS' CLUB

(Avenue A and Tenth Street, New York City)

The late E. H. Harriman saw the possibility of turning mischievous boys, full of energy, into worth-while members of the community. Their endless zest for action, which was being spent in wanton destruction of property, petty crimes and delinquency, was to be turned to projects more useful to them and to society. The young leaders of three or four street gangs were invited to round up the crowd for a party with sandwiches, coffee and ice cream. When the boys were so well stuffed that they seemed willing to remain quiet for a few minutes they were offered the use of two rooms for a club of their own. In return they were to police the neighborhood with a particular eye to guarding the Wilson Mission from other gangs. These in turn were brought into membership after the charter members had chased, fought and otherwise subdued them.

Some of these naughty, lively youngsters are now prominent business men, and many of them give the Boys' Club credit for turning them in the direction of satisfying work. Such expressions as "the Boys' Club is responsible for molding my career" and "the stepping stone to the furthering of my life's ambition" are frequent in their letters. All of them offer money or personal services to support "anything that may be undertaken for the betterment of the boys." These men—engineers, artists, jewelers, officers of large corporations, authors—still call it "our club," and are proud of their connection with it.

Nearly 150,000 boys have gone through the first club. 250 from the 111th Street neighborhood have already joined the new club. They were taken in groups of fifty, with a group of 400 from Avenue A, to the summer camp on Long Island. They got acquainted with one of the jolliest sides of the club life, and will be the leaders when the new house is opened in about a fortnight. Their understanding of what the club stands for will have a widespread effect on new boys as they come in.

While there is plenty of time at the camp for sports, including swimming, there is also work to be done. Carpentry and masonry work for repairs and additions are of great interest, and some of the boys are very clever at picking up a new trade. They insist on helping, and those in charge have found that the work can be done with their aid at less cost than if it were done entirely by outside labor. Athletics have a large part in the life of the club members in the city. The library, classes in drawing and music, a fife, drum and bugle corps and an employment bureau are much used. The school for office boys was one of the first organizations within the club.

To maintain so useful and profitable an organization is to the interest of all New Yorkers. It is one of our best factories for making good American citizens.

* * *

ADULTS learn as rapidly as children, and students of 50 years are about as ready intellectually as those of 25, according to the results of experiments at Columbia University, described by James C. Egbert, Director of University Extension, in his annual report to Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, President of Columbia.

"A recent report by Professor Edward L. Thorndike, of Teachers College, Columbia," says the report, "gives the results of experiments conducted for acquiring knowledge.

"Lack of opportunity and of the desire to learn explain the generally accepted theory that adults can learn only with great difficulty. By increasing the opportunity we shall increase the desire, and evidence is multiplying that University Extension is supplying the opportunity.

"Now as to results. Last year one student was 83 years of age, one of 80, one of 77 and one of 75. Sixteen were above 70 years of age, 87 were between 60 and 70, 345 between 50 and 60, 878 between 40 and 50, 1,822 between 30 and 40, 2,015 between 20 and 30 and only 192 under 20 years. Students to the number of 806 declined to confess their ages. Of the total registration, 3,797 were men and 2,461 women, approximately three men to two women. Every state is represented except Nevada. Foreign countries furnish 112 students, who represent every continent.

"About half of those registered have attended college and about one-fifth high school. The college graduates number 1,127. The largest number hold clerical positions, the next are engaged in business and the third largest group is from industrial positions. Five hundred are housewives, two hundred physicians, four hundred teachers and there are one hundred lawyers. One hundred are literary men and fifty are from the military and naval service. In the selection of subjects of study, English in some form leads all others with 2,148 registrations. Other popular subjects are mathematics, French, history, accounting and banking."—*New York Times*.

Laura C. Donnell.

DECLARING one's faith helps to strengthen it, but it becomes strongest when exercised in works.

If one neglects a plant he loses its beauty; if one neglects God's laws he loses their power.

GOOD will implies a willingness to be good and to do good.

A PAGE FOR THE CHILDREN

THE PRINCE FINDS THE WAY TO HAPPINESS

ONE morning, the prince of a far-away country sprang from his bed and ran to his window. He looked out on pleasant meadows and woods that lay warmly in the sunlight. Near his window bloomed a cherry tree that was covered with a cloud of blossoms. The branches waved in the breeze in a friendly fashion, as though to say "Good morning," but the poor discontented prince did not look at the tree. He gazed far out at the road that ran like a yellow ribbon over hills and through the woods out of sight. He had already decided to follow that road.

"A prince can never be happy," he thought. "The common folk who work in the village are better off than I. The men on my father's place who labor with their hands go whistling about their work, while I can only stand by and watch them. I must leave this palace. Perhaps in some distant country, where people do not know that I am a prince, I can find work like common folk and be happy as they are."

In the garden his mother was waiting for him. "Good-by, dear son," she said. "Here is something I have made for you."

She put a cloak around his shoulders. It shone brightly.

"I put a great deal of love into its stitches," said the queen, "so we will call it a cloak of love."

When the prince left her, she kept smiling bravely after him, so that he would not see how sorry she felt to have him go. Down the long road he went, in search of the way to happiness.

All day he walked, through the fields, and up the hills, and at noontime he came to a little brook and a great willow tree. He sat down with his back to the tree, and took out the lunch box which the cook had filled with good things to eat. While he was eating, he heard a rustling in the branches overhead, and, looking up, he saw two swallows fluttering from branch to branch. The sun was shining brightly, and when it does that, and especially when you have on a cloak of love, it is easy to understand the language of the birds and animals.

"His luncheon looks good," whispered Mr. Swallow to Mrs. Swallow.

"Please help yourself," invited the prince.

"Thank you," chirped the birds, and they flew down and helped themselves to some crumbs of cake.

"See here," said Mr. Swallow to Mrs. Swallow as they flew back to the willow, "this is a generous, broad tree for our home, and I am sure we shall be happy here. There is some straw on the ground beside the prince."

"Now, here is something for me to do," thought the prince. "I can help these birds build their nest. May I help you?" he asked eagerly.

"Oh, no, thank you," replied the birds. "No one can build a swallow's nest except a swallow."

So the prince could only watch, as the birds fluttered between the ground and the tree. For a while they worked, thrusting the straw into a hole in the tree, and then Mrs. Swallow stopped.

"It is no use," she said. "I know that I shall miss the lovely cherry tree that we have always had before. This is a fine tree, but I think we should find our old nest. Behind a curtain of cherry blossoms is the only place to have a home."

"You are quite right," said Mr. Swallow. "Perhaps the prince can tell us how to find it. Do you know the way to a cherry tree that grows beside a castle window?" he asked.

"That must be the tree that grows outside my window," answered the prince. "I have just come from there." And he showed them the road over which he had come.

So the swallows thanked him, and flew off, high above the winding road, to find the cherry tree that grew beside the prince's window.

The next morning he started off again down the road. On and on he trudged, and after a while he felt sure that he had been that way before. But still he kept on walking, until at last, just ahead of him, lay his own palace.

For a minute he was so astonished that he stood very still and did not even move his little finger. Finally, he said slowly:

"I promised myself that I would follow this road to the end, and I shall, even if it takes me back home."

High in the air above him were the swallows, bearing swiftly toward the cherry tree. Down the road ahead of him moved the great flock of sheep.

At the castle, the king and queen met him.

"Welcome home," said the king. "Only today I have learned how much I need you. The head farmer is having trouble with some swampy land he is clearing, and the master builder is in difficulties, too. We need your help and advice, my son."

When he had gone to his room again, the prince looked out of the window. Behind the blossoms of the cherry tree, Mr. and Mrs. Swallow were repairing their nest. The woods and fields looked peaceful in the afternoon sun. Beyond, lay the swampy lands that were to become like these other rich meadows.

And suddenly the prince knew how much he loved his home and that his work was there.—
Christian Science Monitor.

GOD'S DAYS AND MINE

THERE are two days in the week about which I never worry. Two golden days, kept sacredly free from fear and apprehension.

One of these days is yesterday. Yesterday, with all its cares and frets and disappointments, with all its pains and sorrows, has passed forever beyond the power of my control, beyond the reach of my recall. I cannot undo an act that I wrought; I cannot recall a word that I said; I cannot calm a storm that raged on yesterday. All that it holds of my life, of regret or sorrow or wrong, is in the hands of the mighty love that can bring oil out of the rock and sweet waters out of the bitter desert, the love that can make the wrong things right and turn mourning into laughter. Save for the beautiful memories, sweet and tender, that linger like perfume of dried roses in the heart of the day that is gone, *I have nothing to do with yesterday. It was mine: it is God's.*

And the other day I do not worry over is tomorrow. Tomorrow, with all its possible cares, its burdens, its sorrows, its perils, its

boastful promises and poor performances, its good intentions and its bitter mistakes, is as far beyond my reach of mastership as its dead sister, yesterday. Its sun may rise in roseate splendor or behind a mask of weeping clouds. But it will rise. *And it will be God's day. It is God's day. It will be mine.* Save for the star of Hope that gleams forever on its brow, shining with tender promise into the heart of today, I have no possession in tomorrow. All else is in the safe keeping of the same infinite love that holds the treasure of yesterday. All that tomorrow has for me I can trust to the love that is higher than the skies, deeper than the seas, higher than the stars.

There is left for myself, then, nothing but today. Any man can fight the battle of today. Any man can carry the burdens of just one day. Any man can resist today's temptations. This is the strength that makes the way of the pilgrimage joyous. *I think, and I do, and I journey, but one day at a time.* That is the easy day; that is the human day. And, while I do that, God the almighty and the all-loving takes care of yesterday and tomorrow, which I could never do.—*Rev. Robert J. Burdette, D.D.*

THE CHEERFUL LETTER EXCHANGE

ITS PURPOSE

To cheer and comfort those who are ill, lonely, or discouraged, through the exchange of letters and by gifts of books and magazines.

To help those who live far from schools, or who wish to continue their studies by means of correspondence with a teacher.

To give to those living far from church some of the helps which churches give. One good sermon or similar article is printed in each number. These sermons are never doctrinal, but present only such simple religious truths and principles as are agreed on by all churches.

WHERE TO WRITE

1. *Letters paying for subscriptions to the paper*, fifty cents a year, should be sent to the Cheerful Letter Exchange, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass. Checks or postal orders should be made payable to the Cheerful Letter Exchange.

2. *Letters asking for correspondents* should be sent to the Chairman, Mrs. H. A. Stevens, 25 Beacon St., Boston, Mass.

3. *Letters asking for help in studying at home* should be sent to Mrs. George O. Sands, Brimble Ave., North Beverly, Mass.

The Home Study Committee has on hand a variety of schoolbooks which may be used by students either at home or in the schoolroom. The aim of the teachers is to help in any study where help is needed. Often this may fit a person for a higher grade of work.

4. *Letters about the establishment of Circulating Libraries* should be sent to Mrs. Henry R. Bowser, 36 Lancaster St., Cambridge, Mass.

A Circulating Library will be started in any small community needing one, if proper location and care can be furnished and satisfactory references can be given. One hundred and fifty-nine libraries are now on our lists.

5. The Secretary of the Cheerful Letter Exchange, Miss Ethel L. Hersey, Hingham, Mass., should receive the more general correspondence from workers on the local committees, or from others interested in the organization and its methods.